

Patti Wilder State Qualifying Swim Meet

Cobb County Summer Swim League 2009 Grand Finale

The last week of June marks the end of the Summer Swim League inter-league swim meet competition. For 5 weeks this Summer there have been 68 teams and 7200 kids competing weekly for their neighborhood swim teams that swam in one of the 12 Cobb County Summer Swim League Divisions. The season is culminated by the Patti Wilder State Qualifying Swim Meet and it is the County's qualifying meet for the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association's State Championship "A" Swim Meet. On the second weekend of July approximately 1200 swimmers will compete at the Mountain View Aquatic Center for a chance to make the Cobb County's State Swim Team. Approximately 120 swimmers will qualify to represent Cobb County on the State Swim Team and then travel to the GRPA State "A" Swim meet that is held the last weekend in July each Summer.

The State Qualifying Swim Meet for Cobb County Swimmers is named after Patti Wilder. The following is her biography regarding Cobb County swimming.

Patti Wilder was one of the founders of competitive swimming in Cobb County. From 1981 through the 80's Patti Wilder was involved in organizing and running a swim team program out of a small neighbor pool. She was part owner of the pool which also, provided swim lessons which feed the swim team membership. The Cobb County Polar bears Swim Team became one of the first Cobb County Year round swim teams. By 1985 Cobb County opened its first indoor aquatic center. The Polar bears were relinquished to Cobb County along with other county based swim teams that would practice at the Cobb Aquatic Center (known as Central Aquatic Center). Eventually, the Cobb County Swim Team became the Cobb Stingrays and was turned over to a parent non-profit group to run. During these years, Patti Wilder worked at the Central Aquatic Center and was placed charge of the Cobb County Summer Swim League program. Patti ran this program which was very successful until she retired in 2005. Today, there are 68 neighborhood swim teams which represent over 7,200 swimmers that compete in the County Summer Swim League program. Each season concludes with a State Qualifying Meet. Swimmers qualifying at this meet become Cobb County's Summer Swim League's team that will represent the County at the Georgia Parks and Recreation Association State Championship Swim Meet. Unfortunately, Patti passed away in the Spring of 2007. In honor of her life-long commitment to Cobb County swimming and development of the Summer Swim League, Cobb County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs department has named the State Qualifying Swim Meet the "Patti Wilder State Qualifying Swim Meet".